

THE SATURDAY  
EVENING  
**POST**  
FOUNDED BY

*Benjamin Franklin*

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Genetics Department  
Stanford University  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Your Nice speech has been read by our small Adventures of The Mind task force here, and we all agree that there is material for an Adventures article in the manuscript. Your article line seems obvious enough; What is exobiology; what will it be looking for in space; what are its methods; what are the problems; what are the biological risks involved; and finally, is there any scale for measuring our hopes and expectations in such ventures.

I think the revision of your piece for the general reader had best be left to you. Simply try to explain the business interestingly to a hypothetical intellectual peer who knows the fundamental genetic facts of life but who remembers little of his high school or college freshman chemistry.

This means that you may have to explain such words as polymer, isomer, porphyrins when you find it necessary to use them. It means, too, that you will have to decontaminate (technically) such sentences as that on page 11 which rolls out, "If primitive aggregation plays some role in furnishing precursors for biological evolution, this polarization furnishes at least one bias for a decision between levo- and dextro isomers." Also, you will probably want to avoid such collector's items as stochastic -- and it might be a good idea to establish the meaning of the word organic.

If there is any way I can help, please feel free to call upon me. I'll look for some material from you in the near future.

Cordially,

*Richard Thruelsen*

RT:ps